

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1-3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ speech recognition system ~~according to claim 3~~  
comprising:

a plurality of voice pickup means for picking up uttered voices;

determination means for determining a speech signal suitable for speech  
recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means; and  
speech recognition means for performing speech recognition based on said  
speech signal determined by said determination means,

wherein said determination means acquires an average S/N value and average  
voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup  
means and selects said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice  
power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech  
signal suitable for speech recognition, and

wherein[[:]] said determination means determines a candidate order of those  
speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than  
said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said  
speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N  
values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognition means sequentially executes speech recognition on said  
candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower  
one.

5-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A speech recognition system ~~according to claim 9~~  
comprising:

a plurality of voice pickup sections for picking up uttered voices;  
a determination section for determining a speech signal suitable for speech  
recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup sections; and  
a speech recognizer for performing speech recognition based on said speech  
signal determined by said determination section,

wherein said determination section acquires an average S/N value and average  
voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup  
sections and selects said speech signal whose average S/N value and average voice  
power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as said speech  
signal suitable for speech recognition, and

wherein said determination section determines a candidate order of those  
speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice powers are greater than  
said respective predetermined threshold values and which are candidates for said  
speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with said average S/N  
values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognizer sequentially executes speech recognition on said  
candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower  
one.

11-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ speech recognition method ~~according to claim~~  
45 for a speech recognition system having a plurality of voice pickup means for picking  
up voices, comprising:

a voice pickup step of picking up uttered voices using said plurality of voice  
pickup means;

a determination step of determining a speech signal suitable for speech  
recognition from speech signals output from said plurality of voice pickup means; and

a speech recognition step of performing speech recognition based on said  
speech signal determined by said determination step,

wherein said determination step includes a step of acquiring an average S/N  
value and average voice power of each of said speech signals output from said plurality  
of voice pickup means and selecting said speech signal whose average S/N value and  
average voice power are greater than respective predetermined threshold values as  
said speech signal suitable for speech recognition,

wherein said determination step further includes a step of determining a  
candidate order of those speech signals whose average S/N values and average voice  
powers are greater than said respective predetermined threshold values and which are  
candidates for said speech signal suitable for speech recognition, in accordance with  
said average S/N values and average voice powers; and

said speech recognition step sequentially executes speech recognition on said  
candidates in accordance with said candidate order from a highest candidate to a lower  
one.

17-18. (Canceled).